

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development****Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Anchor-Age Center****Federal Tax ID: 92-0086821****Project Title:**

## Anchor-Age Center - Study of Future Needs

**State Funding Requested: \$ 150,000**  
One-Time Need**House District: Anchorage Areawide (17-32)****Brief Project Description:**

The Anchorage Senior Center needs to plan for an expansion to continue providing health and recreation services for the city's seniors.

**Funding Plan:****Total Cost of Project: \$150,000**Funding Secured*Amount FY*Other Pending Requests*Amount FY*Anticipated Future Need*Amount FY*

There is no other funding needed

**Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

As Anchorage's population ages, there will be an increased need for a Senior Center that serves this growing population, and their multitude of interests. The Senior Center will need a larger parking lot, a refurbished multipurpose room, permanent restaurant seating, and a greenhouse, among other priorities.

DOWL Engineers and RIM Architects have given pro bono input on expansion plans, but a formal study is needed. The Senior Center has served the community for 25 years, and must pivot its building and programming to best serve the next generation of seniors.

**Project Timeline:**

With funds, the study can begin immediately.

**Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:**

Municipality of Anchorage

**Grant Recipient Contact Information:**

Contact Name: Celeste Benson

Phone Number: 258-7823

Address:

Email: asc-admin@ak.net

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Anchorage Senior Activities Center  
1300 E. 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501

February 8, 2008

To: Senator Johnny Ellis  
From: Celeste Benson, Chief Administrator  
Subject: Request for funding

Last year the legislature, with your guidance, agreed to fund a planning study for expansion of the Anchorage Senior Center. Unfortunately the funding was folded into a grant to the Municipality of Anchorage for building repairs and not specifically called out as money reserved for planning. It appears the proposed repairs included in the 2007 grant to the Municipality will consume all the funds.

To refresh your memory, the following is a brief listing about us and our expansion need:

A. Anchor Age Center Inc., a nonprofit corporation, has operated the Anchorage Senior Center for the Municipality of Anchorage for 25 years.

B. The Anchorage Age Center Inc. offers a diversified range of services and events for Anchorage area seniors and other community groups.

C. Larry Cash, RIM Architects, Time Potter, DOWL Engineers and Bill Bredesen, Bill Bredesen Company, (Bill recently passed away), gave us pro bono services to brainstorm expansion ideas for feasibility and some initial concept site and building planning.

D. The following is a list of highly valued needs:

- A multi-purpose room with high ceilings for games such as volleyball, basketball, etc.: with a stage for presentations and performances; with a floor suitable for sports, dancing, banquets and seating.
- An improved parking lot and driveway arrangement to increase available parking and eliminate the one-way driving system.
- A maintenance facility with a four bay garage to provide warm storage and maintenance space for Center vehicles and equipment.
- Permanent restaurant seating in lieu of the borrowed ballroom, space to improve food service operation as a dedicated café.
- A greenhouse to be used to raise plants for Center grounds and to conduct gardening classes.

To solidify these needs into building and site design plans requires that we engage professional design assistance to produce a space needs assessment and schematic building and site plan. This step we are advised requires \$150,000.

Since the public, through the Municipality of Anchorage, will retain ownership of any improvements, it is reasonable to request participation in our planning effort from the state legislature. We believe it would be money well appropriated for the state to invest in planning for its current and future seniors.

We respectfully ask that funding our planning efforts for \$150,000 be considered in the upcoming budget.